

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 569

By Johnson P

A RESOLUTION recognizing Colonel Thomas D. Vail,
Commander, 506th Regimental Combat Team,
United States Army.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are proud and honored to recognize this country's military leaders who have dedicated their careers and their lives to protecting the freedoms which Americans hold dear; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Thomas D. Vail, Commander, 506th Regimental Combat Team, United States Army is one such individual who has served with honor and valor as a leader of soldiers through times of combat and of peace; and

WHEREAS, on July 14, 2009, Colonel Vail will participate in the time-honored Honor Eagle ceremony; and

WHEREAS, commissioned in the Infantry after graduating in 1982 from Columbus College, from which he earned a Bachelor of Science degree, Colonel Vail earned a Masters degree of Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College; and

WHEREAS, he furthered his military education through completion of the Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced courses, Command and General Staff College, and courses at the Army War College; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Vail served with acumen and alacrity in a number of troop assignments, including service as the mechanized platoon leader and company executive officer in the 3rd Infantry Division in Schweinfurt, Germany; in consecutive company commands in the 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks; as the regimental training officer of the 75th Ranger Regiment, battalion S3; as Division Chief of Plans and Exercises in the 10th Mountain

Division at Fort Drum; and as Battalion Commander, 3rd Battalion, 502d Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault); and

WHEREAS, in his most recent assignments, Colonel Thomas Vail stood as the Division Operations Officer, G3, and Chief of Staff of the 25th Infantry Division; the Special Assistant to the USARPAC Commander and Director of Infantry Futures at the United States Army Infantry Center; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Vail assumed command of the 506th Regimental Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, on July 26, 2004; and

WHEREAS, in service to the United States Army and the country it protects, Colonel Vail has rendered sterling service throughout his many assignments. Colonel Vail was deployed to Somalia during Operation Continue Hope as the battalion operations officer of the 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry and served with honor in Haiti during Operation Uphold Democracy, standing as the Future Plans officer for Combined Joint Task Force 190; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Thomas Vail's most recent combat tour was as the 506th Regimental Combat Team Commander in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, serving with aplomb from November of 2005 through November of 2006; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Colonel Vail has earned a number of distinctions and decorations throughout his career, including the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Expert Infantryman's Badge, the Ranger Tab, the Senior Parachutist Badge, and the Air Assault Badge; and

WHEREAS, he is perhaps proudest of the love and support he shares with his wife, the former Theresa Annette Tuggle, and their three children, Nicholas, Benjamin, and Katherine; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career as a soldier and officer, Colonel Vail has served with the utmost dignity and with dedication to the highest tenets of honor and, as a decorated member of the United States Army, is wholly deserving of the recognition and respect of this Body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and applaud Colonel Thomas D. Vail, Commander, 506th Regimental Combat Team, United States Army, for his many years of dedicated service to this country and congratulate him on the occasion of his Honor Eagle ceremony, extending our best wishes for continued success in his every future endeavor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.